

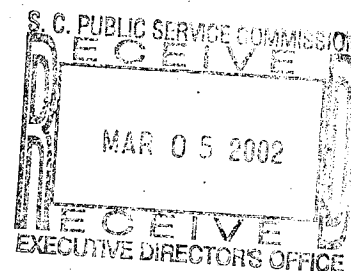
BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

POSTED  
AD3502

Docket No. 2001-507E

In Re:

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE )  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY )  
AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY )  
PALMETTO ENERGY CENTER, LLC. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )



Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS

A. My name is Sharon Grantham. My address is 219 Whitegrove Drive, Fort Mill, South Carolina.

Q. IN WHAT CAPACITY ARE YOU APPEARING TODAY?

A. I am a resident within 2.2 miles of the site of the proposed Palmetto Energy Center.

Q. ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU APPEARING IN THIS PROCEEDING?

A. I am appearing on behalf of myself and other individuals who have filed petitions to intervene in the Application of the Palmetto Energy Center, LLC.

Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE REGULATORY AGENCIES?

A. No.

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

A. My testimony describes flaws in the application of Palmetto Energy Center and supporting documents.

Q. ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE FACTS AND INFORMATION SET FORTH IN PALMETTO ENERGY CENTER'S APPLICATION?

A. Yes, I have reviewed the application and other documents provided by the applicant to those who have filed a petition to intervene.

RETURN DATE: OK AD  
SERVICE: OK AD

Q. WHAT ARE YOUR CONCLUSIONS WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSED PALMETTO ENERGY CENTER?

A. Upon review of the application and supporting documents, I have concluded there are very serious health implications involved.

i) Based on EPA's most current data, this county ranked among the dirtiest/worst 20% of all counties in the US in terms of an average individual's added cancer risk from hazardous air pollutants. Since 1970, the emission of nitrogen oxides has increased 10%. NOx is one of the main ingredients involved in the formation of ground-level ozone. Ground-level ozone is formed when NOx and volatile organic compounds react in the presence of heat & sunlight. Children, people with lung diseases such as asthma, and people who work or exercise outdoors are susceptible to adverse effects such as damage to lung tissue and reduction in lung function.

NOx reacts with ammonia, moisture, and other compounds to form nitric acid and related particles. Human health concerns include effects on breathing and the respiratory system and damage to lung tissue. Small particles penetrate deeply into sensitive areas of the lungs and can worsen emphysema and bronchitis.

NOx and sulfur dioxide react with other substances in the air to form acid rain. Acid rain causes damage to cars, buildings, and historical monuments. Acid rain causes lakes & streams to become acidic and unsuitable for some fish.

Palmetto Energy Center plans to emit 475 tons per year of NOx. South Carolina is one of 22 states required by the Clean Air Act to reduce NOx emissions. One logical step in this direction is to prohibit the building of this plant and keep that 475 tons out of the air.

ii) The largest emission of a pollutant by Palmetto Energy is that of Carbon Monoxide which is 1,324 tons per year. CO is poisonous and can cause death. Even healthy people can be affected by high levels of CO. The health threat from lower levels is most devastating to those who suffer heart problems such as angina, clogged arteries, or congestive heart failure. For a person with heart disease, a single exposure to low level CO may cause chest pain. It can affect a person's ability to exercise. CO also contributes to the formation of ground-level ozone which triggers respiratory problems. In 1999, Bowater emitted 6600 tons of carbon monoxide and the Celanese plant emitted 77 tons of carbon monoxide. With an emission of 1,324 tons, this would make Palmetto Energy the second largest polluter in the county with regard to Carbon Monoxide.

iii) Palmetto Energy Center plans to emit 190 tons per year of Sulfur Dioxide. In 1999, this county ranked among the dirtier 30% of all counties in the US in terms of sulfur dioxide annual average concentration. SO2 in the air can cause temporary breathing difficulty for people with asthma. SO2 can react with other chemicals in the air to form sulfate particles which lodge in the lungs causing difficulty breathing and increased respiratory problems.

iv) Palmetto Energy Center plans to emit 332 tons per year of particulate matter. PM is the major cause of reduced visibility or haze. PM aggravates asthma, causes chronic bronchitis, difficulty in breathing, and decreased lung function. PM is associated with work and school absences. PM is associated with increased emergency room visits for people with heart & lung diseases. PM can settle on soil and pose an additional risk for small children who often ingest soil particles from their hands.

There are numerous schools within a few miles of the proposed power plant. These children will be adversely affected by the pollutants thrust into the air. Their future health is at stake and also their ability to perform at their maximum potential. Unfortunately, our air is already quite polluted and we cannot afford the additional pollutants that the power plant will generate.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CONCERNS?

A. Yes, wholesale facilities have not helped reduce cost to the consumer and are not regulated.

There is a \$17 million shortfall in the total cost of bringing the gas pipeline to the site. There have been no plans stated to cover this amount. If it is passed onto the consumer, that would result in increased gas prices.

The company states that they are using best available technology. They plan to emit 3.5 PPM nitrogen oxide when in one of their other plants, they have reduced emissions of this toxic substance to 2.5 PPM. So, evidently they are NOT using best available technology.

Trucks will pass close to our town carrying ammonia to the site. An accident could cause a disastrous ammonia leak. The fact that they have to travel in close proximity to our residents is cause for concern.

Mr. Niland has said all of the costs associated with Palmetto Energy will be borne by Calpine's investors and not by South Carolina or its residents. However, \$3 million of the state's gas tax money has been allocated toward the construction of the gas pipeline. This does not conform to the above statement that Calpine's investors will absorb all costs.

There is some question about the company's financial viability. Their stocks have been downgraded to junk status. Part of their agreement with the County allows for the dismantling of the facility should operations cease. There is no mention as to how funds for this would be set aside. There have been numerous instances in the past where companies vowed to clean up their sites. They either went bankrupt or closed and the cleanup of the sites was left to the taxpayer.

It is anticipated that there will be damage to the roadways as heavy equipment travels over them during the two year construction period. There is no mention of roadway repair.

In conclusion, the residents would have increased health problems resulting in increased medical costs, resulting possibly in increased health insurance costs, increased absences from work resulting in losses to companies. There could be higher power bills and higher gas bills and roads remaining to be repaired. In short, this power plant would be a detriment to the community.